Wilson Back in D.C. and Ready to Fight for People of Ohio's Sixth District "I'm back, I'm healthy and I'm ready to get back to work"

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) returned to the House of Representatives today, Tuesday, November 06. He has been recovering for the past few weeks following emergency colon surgery on October 11.

"I'm back, I'm healthy, and I'm ready to get back to work," Wilson told reporters this morning.

"As you know I had a routine screening colonoscopy in Ohio - like guys my age are supposed to have. This is such an important procedure in preventing cancer. I'm happy to report they did not find any cancer - that's the good news. But, they did cause some damage during the procedure and that led to complications," Wilson said.

The procedure caused a hole in his large intestine, which can be life threatening. Wilson told reporter that this kind of risk can happen in about one in 1,000 colonoscopies.

"I just drew the bad card," Wilson said. Wilson also added later that he remains an advocate for colonoscopies. He said he would still encourage people to have them.

Following the major abdominal surgery in Washington that was required to correct the problem and to take care of the resulting infection, Wilson spent a week in the hospital, including five days in intensive care.

At the time of the surgery, Wilson's surgeon advised him that he would require an additional four weeks for recovery.

Wilson is pleased to have returned to work about a week early.

"I had the benefit of great doctors and nurses and I want to thank them for everything they did to help me get better," Wilson said. "I'm feeling good and I'm eager to get back here and fight for the people of Ohio I represent."

On his first day back Wilson plans to participate in the mark up of a bill in the Financial Services Committee aimed at preventing the sub-prime abuses that have caused Ohio to be one of the leading states in home foreclosures. "The bill will help protect families and investors and I'm proud to support it," Wilson said.

He also plans to vote today to override the President's veto of the Water Resources Development Act. This bill includes an important authorization that will allow the study of whether the Army Corps of Engineers can or should build a flood wall on the Ohio River. That study will be carried out throughout Ohio's Sixth District.

"Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed the Water Resources Development Act last week," Wilson said. "But today, we're going to vote to override that veto in the House and I'm proud to stand up for such an important local project in one of the first votes I'll cast after coming back from surgery."

You can listen to Wilson's press conference call here

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